

Even if you have

Uncertain housing

A temporary address

No permanent physical address

you can enroll your child in school.

What Families Need to Know



Educational Rights For Children and Youth Lacking Fixed, Regular, and Adequate Housing

- 🍏 You do not need a permanent address to enroll your child in school.
- 🍏 Your child cannot be denied school enrollment when school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- 🍏 Your child may be able to remain in the same school (school of origin) even if you move.
- 🍏 You have the right to request transportation to the school of origin.
- 🍏 If you and the school disagree about school enrollment, you may have the right to appeal.
- 🍏 Your child automatically qualifies to participate in free school meals.
- 🍏 Your child has the right to participate in federal, state, or local programs for which they are eligible.

Youth not accompanied by a parent or guardian and lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing have these same rights.

At School, Ask About:

- 🍏 School supplies
- 🍏 Before and after school programs
- 🍏 Tutoring and enrichment programs
- 🍏 Summer school programs
- 🍏 Preschool programs
- 🍏 Contact information for community resources

Also, let the school know if your child needs special education, English language, or gifted programs.

Schools give children and youth experiencing homelessness hope and a chance for a better future.



If you have questions, contact the school division's McKinney-Vento liaison or Project HOPE-Virginia.

Tips For Families Who Move Often

- 🍏 Keep a copy of birth certificates and school records accessible.
- 🍏 Safeguard all health and immunization records.
- 🍏 Have a reliable person keep a second copy of the child's birth certificate, school records, and health information.
- 🍏 Enroll children in school as soon as possible.

What You Can Do Before Moving

- 🍏 Tell your child's teacher and principal that your child is moving and give them the new address.
- 🍏 Let your McKinney-Vento liaison know if you want your child to stay in the school of origin.
- 🍏 Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including immunizations.

Agency Information List

The following contacts may be useful resources to families and children experiencing homelessness.

Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

Child Protective Services (CPS) - Virginia Department of Social Services
Virginia: (804) 786-8536 | Out-of-State: (800) 552-7096

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline

www.childhelp.org | (800) 422-4433

Free Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit

www.irs.gov/eitc | (800) 829-1040

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

www.humantraffickinghotline.org | (888) 373-7888

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi | (800) 552-3431

Virginia Housing

www.virginiahousing.com | www.vhda.com | (877) 843-2123

Virginia School Immunization Requirements

www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements | (800) 568-1929

VA Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

www.vsdvalliance.org | (800)-838-8238 | (804) 793-9999

Cover Virginia - Medicaid & FAMIS

www.coverva.org | (833) 522-5582

National Center for Homeless Education

www.nche.ed.gov | (800) 308-2145

National Runaway Safeline

www.1800runaway.org | (800) 786-2929

Social Security Administration Hotline

www.ssa.gov | (800) 772-1213

Virginia Legal Aid

www.vlas.org | (866) 534-5243



The federal McKinney-Vento Act guarantees school enrollment for anyone who, **due to a lack of permanent housing**, lives in **inadequate** or **temporary** settings, such as:

- 🏠 Emergency shelters or transitional housing
- 🏠 Motels, hotels, or campgrounds due to lack of an adequate alternative
- 🚗 Cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings
- 🏠 Doubled-up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Find Your Local McKinney-Vento Liaison



Local contact:

Carolyn Kelley, LMSW
School Social Worker
New Kent County Public Schools
(804) 557-3088
ckelley@nkcps.k12.va.us



Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
Virginia Department of Education Coordinated by the
William & Mary School of Education

Office (757) 221-4002
Toll Free (877) 455-3412
E-mail homlss@wm.edu
Website www.projecthopevirginia.org

FALL 2024